

*Return of Mandians*

Lewis Tappan,

Oct. 23 — 41.

New York, Oct. 23<sup>d</sup>. 1841.

Dr Br Phelps,

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By some accident or other your letter of the 21st was not delivered to me from the Post Office till this morning. And to day I have been so occupied that I entirely overlooked your letter till near the last moment, when it was too late.

You will not authorize an announcement to be made of course until you learn that the Mandians will certainly go to Boston at the time.

I have been looking at a vessel to day & have pretty much made up my own mind, but must wait until Monday, to see Mr Leavitt before we can decide. Mr Jacobs is at Boston I believe. We want to get a vessel & fix upon the time of her sailing before we visit Boston &c. When we go we wish to have a definite object before us. On Monday or Tuesday I can write to you. They can not, at any rate, go <sup>to Boston</sup> till week after next.

In writing to you I did not expect you would devote much time, & shall be glad to compensate whatever you may employ on this business at any time.

You fear we "are precipitate in sending them home." We must send them this fall or keep them another year. Our money is about gone & the expense of keeping them would be enormous. They are very impatient to go, & since the subject has been recently agitated their minds are off their studies almost entirely. We have applied to the President. He says there is no law authorizing him to send them home specially & no master is about going to the Coast of Africa

W<sup>m</sup> Raymond Swift had engaged to go. Some had reason to expect that our colored brother Pennington of Hartford would go also. We therefore thought it safe to make an appeal to the public for funds, as it takes a good while to diffuse such information & get returns. We intimated in the Appeal our desire to have another person as a missionary.

Pennington has declined.

Raymond has a brother he speaks highly of who is spoken well of by others, who may go.

But as you say we want a teacher. We have thought so from the beginning. Where is the man? Do put a paragraph or two into your religious paper on the subject - in such a way that other religious paper will copy.

Give us all the hints you can.

Yours very truly,  
Lewis Tappan